

REMARKS

A first Office Action was mailed on October, 2004. Claims 1 – 17 are pending in the present application. Applicants cancel claims 1 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 2 – 5, 7 – 9, 11 and 13 – 16. No new matter is introduced.

ALLOWABLE CLAIM

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 12 is allowed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

Claims 1 – 4, 8, 9, 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,685 to Wessel et al. Claims 6, 10, 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wessel. Claims 5, 7, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wessel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,697,436 to Wright et al.

Applicants cancel claims 1 and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 2 – 5, 7 – 9, 11 and 13 – 16 to depend from allowable claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 – 5, 7 – 9, 11 and 13 – 16 are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim 6 currently depends from allowable claim 5, and claim 10 currently depends from allowable claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 6 and 10 are also allowable for at least this reason.

CONCLUSION

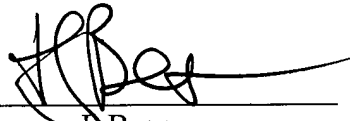
An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 2 -

16, consisting of independent claim 12, and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Bean', written over a horizontal line.

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